

NOAA/EPA Strategy for Reviewing State Coastal Nonpoint Program Submissions

NOAA and EPA have developed the following Coastal Nonpoint Program review guidelines to help the agencies efficiently and effectively review state submissions and manage workload. The review guidelines will also help states understand what to expect during the review process.

Prioritizing State Submissions: NOAA and EPA frequently receive materials from several states at a time to review that cover many different management measures (MMs) and require assessing various supporting programmatic, guidance, and regulatory materials. All submissions are important and will receive full agency attention. However, some state coastal nonpoint programs may be under more pressing deadlines than others. Therefore, NOAA and EPA will be prioritizing state reviews as follows (listed from highest to lowest priority):

- Programs with legal action (e.g., Oregon)
- New programs that have yet to receive conditional approval (e.g., Illinois)
- Programs with CZMA Section 312 Necessary Actions (those with nearer due dates are a higher priority than programs with due dates further out)
- Programs that will be undergoing Section 312 evaluations soon and will be receiving a Necessary Action
- All other programs

Expected Review Times: The following provides a general framework for how long NOAA and EPA anticipate it may take to review a state's submittal. Please note that this schedule provides general estimates only and that actual review times may vary depending on how many submissions NOAA and EPA have to review at any one time, how complex those submissions are, and other extenuating circumstances.

NOAA/EPA Workload Priority	Priority for State Review (as of April 2015)	Review Time*	
		Complex/Lengthy Submissions (covers many MMs or requires reviewing 50+ pp)	Small Submissions (covers only a few MMs and/or requires reviewing less than 50 pp)
Higher	OR, <input type="checkbox"/>	ASAP	ASAP

Non-Responsive

*Note: If NOAA/EPA determine the state's program is fully approvable, add 3-6 months to timeline to allow for Federal Register Notice process. NOAA and EPA must announce proposed decision for a 30 day public comment period. Additional time may be required if significant comments are received.